

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #73-17 Building Date: 1882, 1939
Building Name: Old Mill Schoolhouse
Location: 660 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible
Description:

The Old Mill Schoolhouse stands in a grove of pinetrees just west of the drive into Drumsheugh. It has as its nucleus a one-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed building (ca. 24 by 32 feet), to which a one-story wing has been added on each side. The principal facade is the south gable end of the original schoolhouse; the entrance is centered between two narrow eight-pane windows. The door has a single-pane transom and is framed by applied pilasters and frieze. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge. At right angles to the old schoolhouse are two flanking wings. The larger wing is to the east, and has in its first bay a tripartite door with three-pane elliptical fanlight. The south front of this east wing is sided with narrow vertical wainscoting embellished with applied pilasters and shallow arches. The rest of the building has plain horizontal board siding painted white. Window surrounds are of plain beaded board. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle and the foundations are of concrete.

Significance:

The Old Mill School house is a good example of a late nineteenth century one-room schoolhouse significantly altered to serve as a dwelling. It stands just north of Route 202 (the old Bladensburg-Marlboro Road) at the entrance drive to the Drumsheugh estate. A schoolhouse stood just a short distance southeast of this location in the antebellum period, known as the Old Mill schoolhouse because of its proximity to the mill on the Southwest Branch. In October 1881, the Board of School Commissioners authorized the trustees of the school to choose a new site for a new building, and in February 1882, the attorney for the Board condemned for that purpose an acre of land out of the tract Norway, the "Mt. Lubentia" estate of Washington Jeremiah Beall. In 1882, a standard one-room schoolhouse was constructed: 24 x 32 feet, one-story, frame on brick foundation. This school operated through the spring of 1934, when the Board of Education ordered that its pupils be transferred to Upper Marlboro. The property, including the school building, was sold by the Board to W. Beall Bowie of Mt. Lubentia, grandson of its original owner. Within a few years, Bowie sold the acre of land to Ralph Powers (later Judge of the Circuit Court), who remodeled the old schoolhouse, and added a cross-gable wing on each side. In the early 1950's, Judge Powers built the neo-Georgian Drumsheugh on the adjoining property, and since that time the remodeled schoolhouse has been a tenant residence. It is a noticeable and unusual landmark, an example of a one-room schoolhouse significantly remodeled for residential use.

Acreage: .8 acre

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Mill Schoolhouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 660 Largo Road (Maryland Route 202) ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro ☐ vicinity of Largo congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ralph Powers

street & number 710 Largo Road telephone no.: 336-2050

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3465

street & number Main Street folio 252

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #73-17

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Old Mill Schoolhouse stands in a grove of pinetrees just west of the drive into Drumsheugh. It has as its nucleus a one-and-one-half-story frame gable-roofed building (ca. 24 by 32 feet), to which a one-story wing has been added on each side. The principal facade is the south gable end of the original schoolhouse; the entrance is centered between two narrow eight-pane windows. The door has a single-pane transom and is framed by applied pilasters and frieze. Above the door at loft level is a six-pane single sash window. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the ridge.

At right angles to the old schoolhouse are two flanking wings. On the west is a two-bay wing with an exterior brick chimney at its west gable end. On the east is a larger wing which has as its south front an enclosed porch. In its first bay is an opening in the form of a tripartite door with three-pane elliptical fanlight; the second (asymmetrical) bay has a 6/6 double-hung sash window. This south front is sided with narrow vertical wainscoting embellished with applied pilasters and shallow arches.

Except for the south front of the east wing the building has plain horizontal board siding painted white. Window surrounds are of plain beaded board. There are no shutters. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle and the foundations are of concrete.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #73-17

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local history

Specific dates 1882, 1939

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Old Mill School house is a good example of a late nineteenth century one-room schoolhouse significantly altered to serve as a dwelling. It stands just north of Route 202 (the old Bladensburg-Marlboro Road) at the entrance drive to the Drumsheugh estate. A schoolhouse stood just a short distance southeast of this location in the antebellum period, before the establishment of the Board of County School Commissioners. It was known as the Old Mill schoolhouse because of its proximity to the mill constructed early in the nineteenth century on the Southwest Branch. In the early 1880's, when many of the early schoolhouses had fallen into disrepair, the Board began the process of repairing or replacing them. In September 1881 the Board contracted with John C. Wyvill, who had constructed many buildings in the Marlboro area, to repair the Old Mill school¹, but late in October, the Board authorized the trustees of the school to choose a new site for a new building.² This they did, and by February 1882, the attorney for the Board condemned an acre of property for that purpose.³ The acre of land came out of the tract Norway, the "Mt. Lubentia" estate of Washington Jeremiah Beall. A 24 by 32 foot, one-story, one-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1882. It followed a standard design: frame on brick foundation, no basement, with heat from a coal stove. The single large room could accommodate 42 students at 21 desks. Water was brought from a well a considerable distance away, and there were two frame privies.⁴ This school operated through the spring of 1934, when the Board of Education ordered that its pupils be transferred to Upper Marlboro.⁵ The property, including the school building, was sold by the Board to W. Beall Bowie of Mt. Lubentia, grandson of its original owner.⁶ Within a few years, Bowie sold the acre of land to Ralph Powers (later Chief Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court), who remodeled the old schoolhouse, added a cross-gable wing on each side, and resided there with his family for 13 years. In the early 1950's, Judge Powers built the neo-Georgian Drumsheugh on the adjoining property, and since that time the remodeled schoolhouse has been a tenant residence.⁷ It is a noticeable and unusual landmark, an example of a one-room schoolhouse significantly remodeled for residential use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #73-17

cf. Chain of Title
cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .8 acre, TM #75, p. 5Quadrangle name Lanham, Section H

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commission date June 1985street & number c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPC
County Administration Building telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

8. Continued

Notes

- 1 Journal of Board of P.G. County School Commissioners, Vol. I, minutes
3 Sept. 1881.
- 2 ibid, 22 Oct. 1881.
- 3 ibid, 25 Feb. 1882.
- 4 Closed school files, Dept. of Plant Maintenance, P.G. County Public
Schools, Upper Marlboro.
- 5 Journal of Board of Education, Vol. III, 8 May 1934.
- 6 ibid, 15 March 1935; P.G. County Deed #465:439.
- 7 Conversation with Judge Powers, April 1985.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Old Mill School House				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 660 Largo-Marlboro Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Largo				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Rosco Powers				
STREET AND NUMBER: 700 Largo-Marlboro Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Largo		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

SIGNIFICANCE

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

PERIOD (Check One or More as Applicable)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 15th Century

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable)

REASONS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Applicable)

- Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is a one story frame, clapboard structure with a three bay main (south) facade. The central doorway with transom light is flanked by fluted pilasters supporting a plain frieze band. The eaves and cornice are boxed.

Wings on either side are additions.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Unexposed
☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

rs
and

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION		DATE	
MNCPPC		24 Sept. 73	
STREET AND NUMBER:			
8787 Georgia Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	
Silver Spring		Maryland	

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Old Mill Schoolhouse P.G. #73-17

#3465:252 27 March 1967 Deed	Ruth W. Caldwell, widow, to Ralph W. and Penelope R. Powers, as tenants by the entireties; .802 acres, part of a 127-acre tract; same which Ralph W. Powers previously acquired by #519:190.
#1782:1 6 Oct. 1954 Deed	Ralph W. and Penelope L. Powers to Bruce and Ruth W. Caldwell; 1 acre on Largo Road, part of a 127-acre tract; same which grantors acquired by #519:190.
#519:190 19 Dec. 1938 Deed	W. Beall and Frances D. Bowie to Ralph W. Powers; 1 acre known as Old Mill School; same which grantors acquired by #465:439.
#465:439 1 Oct. 1934 Deed	For \$300, Prince George's County Board of Education to W. Beall Bowie; 1 acre known as the Old Mill School.
JWB #5:255 2 Nov. 1885 Deed	Division of the property of Mary A. Beall, "recently departed this life intestate." To her daughter Mary E. Brooke: 127 acres, Lot #3, less 1 acre for school lot.

109073

R-80

MANOR
CARE OF LARGO

8742

'A'

DRIVE

FRANCIS S. BOWIE, ET AL

5546/143

22.79 A.

P.12

RANCIS S. BOWIE

5546/148

6.69 A.

P.11

O-S

R-R

PARCEL-A

CAPITOL BAPTIST CHURCH

7687

PG 73-17

P.5

R-R

RALPH W POWERS

470/361

115 66A.

P.6

R-S

ROAD

LARGO KNOLLS

R-R

SEC 3

SEC. 5

'A'

9160

9157

AMPTON
CENTER

NORTHAMPTON



P.G. #73-17

Old Mill Schoolhouse

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Southeast elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #73-17

Old Mill Schoolhouse

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #73-17

Old Mill Schoolhouse

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

South entrance

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME OLD MILL SCHOOLHOUSE

LOCATION Rt 202 NEAR WHITE HOUSE Rd CARGO, Md

FACADE S.W.

PHOTO TAKEN 9/20/73 M. DWYER

PG: 73-17